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THE UNITARIAN

A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS

THESE ARE UNITARIANS

No. 8: Una Hale

Una Hale, the opera singer, was born in Adelaide, South Australia, during the twenty-five years ministry of her father, the Rev. G. E. Hale, at the Unitarian Church. Growing up in the Sunday School (of which she later became the very young superintendent), she then became a member of the minister's Bible Class and the Church Choir in which she first sang in public, but not very willingly, for she was never anxious to sing to an audience, though at home her spare time was spent singing at the piano.

Her love of the stage and of beautiful speech was inherited from her father, and she was encouraged to develop her histrionic ability on leaving school where she took many major roles in school productions. She studied under Dr. Harold Davies, brother of Sir Walford Davies, and under Hilda Gill, a distinguished singer and teacher. In 1946 she was a finalist in the Australian Broadcasting Commission's Concerto and Vocal Competition, and soon afterwards came to England with her parents. Within a fortnight she was awarded an opera scholarship at the Royal College of Music where she studied under Clive Carey for two years.

On leaving college she joined the Carl Rosa Opera Company as a principal soprano and toured the British Isles in leading soprano roles including Micaela, Traviata, Elizabeth and Donna Anna. In 1952 she married Peter Harrison, then a member of the company, at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, Hampstead, and they now live at Southgate in North London.

In 1954 she became a guest artist at Covent Garden to sing the parts of Micaela and Antonia, and at the end of the year became a regular member of the company. In 1955 she was the first British singer to take the title role in William Walton's *Troilus and Cressida*, and sang Elizabeth in *Tannhaüser* under the baton of Rudolf Kempe with whom she has also sung in the Ring cycles at Covent Garden. She has also sung Mimi in *La Bohème*, the Countess in *Figaro*, and recently achieved success in the roles of Eva in *Die Meistersinger* and Ellen Orford in *Peter Grimes*.

She has broadcast regularly for the B.B.C. and has sung for other companies as a guest artist, and in June of this year she sang Venus in Blow's opera *Venus and Adonis* at Ingestre Hall, the home of the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury, and the same month sang before the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh at a gala performance at Covent Garden.

When free to do so, Una Hale has been very happy to sing at Unitarian churches in different parts of the country. For relaxation she turns to her records or explores the depths of the English countryside in her car, and being an Australian she is still discovering the beauty of England and finds it one of her greatest joys.

LEARNING BY EXPERIENCE

To me in youth, science was more important than either man or God. I worshipped science . . .

It took many years for me to discover that science, with all its brilliance, lights only a middle chapter of creation. I saw the science I worshipped, and the aircraft I loved, destroying the civilisation I expected them to serve and which I thought as permanent as earth itself.

Now I realise that to survive one must look beyond the speed and power of aircraft—beyond the material strength of science. And, though God cannot be seen as tangibly as I had demanded as a child, his presence can be sensed in every sight and act and incident. Now I know that when man loses this sense, he misses the true quality of life—the beauty of earth . . . the brotherhood of men; the joy of wife and children . . . The most urgent mission of our time is to understand these truths.

Charles A. Lindbergh.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

16th I.A.R.F. Congress at Chicago

The congress theme, "The World's Religions Can Help The World's Needs To-day," brought people from 20 countries to Chicago, and Hindu Buddhist, Muslim, Jew and Christian joined in the opening service at the University Chapel. Dr A. Bouvier (Switzerland) preached. He pleaded for practical internationalism.

Each day's conference was given to one of the great world religions expounded by one of its own members. Dr. Wilhelm Pauck showed the opportunity for a liberal Christianity which could ensure that religion did not become an ally of barbarism, or science become coupled with unbelief. Sir Zafrulla Khan, on Islam, showed that the primacy of the Koran as the one true source of religious knowledge for Muslims differentiates Islam from Western religious liberalism whatever other contributions Islam has to make. Dr. Kalidas Nag on Hinduism surveyed historical trends but had little to say on how Hinduism could meet the world's needs now. The Hon. U. Chan. Htoon on Buddhism, emphasised the freedom of the individual in his faith. Rabbi Solomon Freehof spoke for Liberal Judaism and compared the approach of Liberal Christians and Liberal Jews, and indicated the right methods for guiding the world through its present difficulties. All sorts of topics came before panel discussions, and the findings are to be published by the I.A.R.F.

American hospitality was greatly appreciated by all visiting members. Among many social events was an all-Congress banquet with Dr. Preston Bradley of the Chicago People's Church as the main speaker.

XFORD
JMMER SCHOOL

By Christine Shaw

"The old ways of religious educa-n are out-of-date, they do not fit e new faith that grows in free-m," quoted the Rev. Dudley chards from the American itarian expert in religious educa-n, Sophia Lyon Fahs, at the mmer School for Teachers in gust.

He continued: "Why have not re Unitarian children entered r churches? Is it not because we ought that while they were young e could teach them religion in the d way? We said: We shall let em think for themselves when ey are old enough. But we were o late. They thought the old ligion and the old ethics were all e knew. Many were not in-rested."

The Sunday School of yesterday—is it still of to-day?—was often ld in one large room, the teachers raining to be heard above each her. The fives gathered with the lteens for worship. The songs, the ayers, the leader's talk were too dvanced for the babies and too abyish for the advanced. There ere no preparation classes. The eekly period was too short and here was little stimulus for riginality in the classes.

Discussions on each talk were led y excellent leaders: Mrs. Tarr took he Primary group, Mr. John Vilson the Juniors, and Mr. John Latcliffe the Intermediates.

Mrs. Tarr stressed the importance f understanding the children we each, otherwise our task is hopeless. The uncontrolled behaviour of in-dividualistic youngsters must have vise handling. Our aim should be o give moral support and help, uggesting things, not commanding hem, and trying to bring children o an awareness of God as creator.

Mr. Wilson advised us not to confuse the mental and physical ages of those in the 8 to 12 group. We should encourage such abstract qualities as loyalty and justice to aid the children to become members of a helpful community; but lessons must be given in a concrete form, and are best illustrated by biographical stories.

The intermediate class is most important, Mr. Ratcliffe insisted. Here we either keep the children or lose them. Efficiency, kindly discipline and personal guidance are necessary, yet teachers should not dictate but set examples. Opinions have already been formed at this age, and we must be able to help and correct idealistic and biased ideas. Approaches, however, must always be planned.

Sunday School worship is a problem. The magical words "Let us pray" are not enough. The leader must set the right atmosphere at the beginning; his whole attitude must be one of worshipping. Children can enter into worship at an early age. Aim at teaching spontaneous prayer, and new and exciting hymns, and let children take part in and help to organise the services.

The general feeling was that preparation classes and co-operation between teachers is vital in every Sunday School; that the hourly period should be extended; that the teaching of children should be included in the curriculum of ministerial students, and that a much higher standard of reverence should be taught in Sunday School by *trained* teachers.

Many ideas on practical teaching, from wall charts to model villages, were demonstrated by the Rev. A. J. Long and Miss Allen.

Our excellent host, Mrs. Thrasher and her husband, guided thirty-eight people through a wonderful week of friendship and enjoyment.

"The Post Office regrets that it is unable to issue special stamps for local bazaars."

CHILDREN'S CORNER

The Kick-off

The mayor sat tensed for the explosion. But the duchess did not explode. She smiled.

"What a splendid idea!" she said.

The mayor could scarcely believe his ears.

"Yes," the duchess continued, "what an absolutely splendid idea." The mayor was amazed to get off so easily.

So the following Saturday afternoon when Toytown Rangers met Toadstool Thursday, the duchess was led on to the field by the officials. The kick-off was to give the event official blessing, then the match would begin in earnest; at least that was the idea.

All went well at first. The duchess tapped the ball and the crowd cheered. The duchess blushed with pleasure and started to walk off followed by the officials. Unfortunately she paused to speak to the outside left; and the referee, thinking she was clear, blew his whistle. The centre forward tapped the ball, and immediately it was over on the left wing. A desperate scrimmage took place, in the middle of which the duchess and officials could be seen protesting vigorously. Eventually they limped over the line and the duchess began to belabour the mayor. She had lost her hat and a shoe, she said. She was also a mass of bruises. *He* had invited her; why could he not organise the thing properly? And she swept off.

The mayor looked at the officials who *had* organised it, and wondered sadly why it was always he who got the blame! He had not only lost *his* hat, he had been trampled on by everybody. What a life!

THE ETERNAL GOSPEL

Religious is a higher and broader word than Christian; and so is *Human*. Jewish, Brahmin, Buddhist, Parsee, Mohammedan, these, too, are churches of the One Living God, the Father of all. With advancing light, thoughtful men in all of them will come out of what is peculiar and special in each, and so local and temporary, into the broad ground of universal, spiritual religion, which is Deity, Righteousness, Humanity, that belief in God and in man which is the creed of all creeds . . . This is the Eternal Gospel; this the true Church Catholic; the Church not of Rome, nor of England; the Church not of Buddha; nor of Moses; nor of Christ; but of God and man."

Samuel Longfellow.

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DIVINE JUDGMENT

By A. B. Downing

It is fairly safe to say that most religious people believe that our lives are subject to some sort of eternal judgment. Most of us believe—though we cannot assert it as a scientific fact—that at this very moment God is judging the actions and attitudes of men. Certainly it is morally wise to live our lives on that assumption, though I should be hard put to it to prove in black and white. These days there are many clever people whose brains have rather gone to their heads! They sometimes forget that to understand the whole of our experience is beyond the capacity of mere brain power.

For the religious person it must be sufficient to know, to feel with one's whole being, that we do not live in a soulless universe, but in a moral one—a universe in which very definite things indeed are expected of us and in which we often stand condemned for failing to do what we ought to do. Life indeed can make no possible sense at all if the good and the better things are not expected of us. That is one of the beliefs which go to make up religious faith.

NEWS AND VIEWS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

September began the work of removal from Gordon Square to the re-built Essex Hall, which is to be officially opened on Saturday, October 25th. This task immediately followed the absence of many assembly officials at the I.A.R.F. meetings in America and has meant the postponement of some of the routine committees normally held in September.

OVERSEAS CHURCHES

AUCKLAND, N.Z. *The Unitarian* welcomes the first calendar to be received from Auckland Unitarian Church, now under the lay pastorate of Mr. M. J. Wilsie, M.A. It records the gift of twenty books to the Children's Library by Mrs. Una Smith and her son Tony; and the visit of a California Unitarian, Mr. Donald Kelley, a science editor, who asked for consideration of a scheme for a Pacific Area Unitarian Council, which occurred to him after visits to many Pacific Unitarian groups.

CAPE TOWN celebrated its 91st Church Anniversary (the 68th in the present building) with a commemoration service at which 91 candles were lit by various members and friends of the church, each candle representing one year of the church's history, and having, if possible, some special significance in the experience of the person who lighted it.

HOME CHURCHES

BOLTON. Induction services for the first ministry of the Rev. Kenneth Wright, B.A., were held at HALLIWELL ROAD on August 9th, and at WALMSLEY Chapel on August 16th. Members from Mr. Wright's home congregation, KNUTSFORD, and from PLATT Chapel, where he has been one of the student-pastors, attended. District churches were well represented at both inductions, and at Walmsley tea was provided for 150.

DITCHLING. An excellent attendance was recorded for the anniversary service at which the Rt. Hon. J. Chuter Ede, M.P., was the preacher, and for the tea in the village hall. £27 10s. was raised at a Garden Sale the following week towards improvements to the chapel heating system, which will cost about £80 altogether.

IRELAND. The Synod of the Non-subscribing Presbyterian Church adopted a recommendation of the committee on ministers' salaries that the payment of a fair salary should be the first charge on the income of each congregation and that decora-

tion and renovation of property should not be paid for at the expense of the minister. The committee considered that a fair minimum gross income together with the use of a manse, considering the nature of a minister's duties to-day would be £1,000 p.a. and that as a first step towards this target the present minimum income should be fixed at £750, and that salaries should be reviewed annually with a view to reaching the target within a reasonable period. KILLINCHY presented their minister, the Rt. Rev. J. W. Dyer, with a ribbed-silk preaching gown in recognition of his appointment as moderator of the Non-subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. This was done at a Garden Tea at which £18 was made for the India Fund. DOWNPATRICK Church is to receive £500 under the will of the late Mr. Robert I. Chambers. DUNMURRY Church entertained a party of young Belgians during the summer, and they and the Dunmurry members attended a service at ALL SOULS', Belfast, at which the Rev. J. Nijs, of Courtrai, preached in English, and the minister, the Rev. Dr. A. L. Agnew, J.P., conducted the service in French. It was followed by a social evening at which Mr. Nijs gave a demonstration of acrobatics, which is part of a minister's training in Belgium, and Dr. Agnew gave a demonstration of hypnotism.

IPSWICH, where morning service on customary lines has been held, and in the evening a short service folowed by discussion, is to have one monthly full evening service with sermon as an experiment.

KIDDERMINSTER Women's League has exceeded the target of £100 which it set itself to raise between March and the summer Garden Party, to the extent of £6 10s.

KNUTSFORD. Mrs. Riley has crocheted a communion cloth for the chapel. An attractive leaflet about the chapel and its history has been published for distribution to visitors.

LIVERPOOL. GATEACRE Chapel has started a Sunday School Mothers' Club, which is to organise a stall at the chapel Christmas Fair. At a meeting for young people held in August it was decided to form a Young People's Society which it is hoped to affiliate to U.Y.P.L. HOPE STREET Church is holding experimental lunch-hour services on Tuesdays, from 12.30 to 1.30. There will be organ music from 12.30 to 12.50, then a devotional service of hymns, readings and prayers till 1.20 and further organ music till 1.30. The items of the service will be linked by suitable commentary, and worshippers will be free to come and go at any time suitable to themselves within the hour.

LONDON. HACKNEY Unitarian Children's Club which has no members over 15 years, succeeded in winning the Girl's Championship in a London C.C. Youth Sports Meeting open to youngsters up to 19 years. Eleven other clubs entered, and the Unitarian girls gained 251 points, beating 2nd Homerton Catholic Youth Club by 5. RICHMOND Church garden owes much this summer to the gift of new plants and shrubs by Mrs. MacQueen. The congregation contribution to the new Essex Hall Fund is now over £50.

MANCHESTER. URMSTON Unitarian Players' recently visited Blackpool, and went to service at NORTH SHORE Church. ALTRINCHAM U.Y.P.L. in July visited RAWTENSTALL Church for morning service on the way to Morecambe. WYTHENSHAWE'S new church building is now taking shape, and the laying of the foundation stone by Mr. H Beaumont, Headmaster of Crossacres Primary School, was fixed for September 27th. It is expected that the class-

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rooms wing of the new building will be ready for occupation in October, and then the temporary church hut can be removed. It has done duty for 21 years. BLACKLEY Church is to receive a bequest of £1,330 from the late Mrs. Barraclough, who also left £443 to the Great Hucklow Convalescent Homes.

STAND Chapel is arranging a "Mission to Ourselves" as a first step in a Unitarian Advance Campaign. The Annual Exhibition was opened on September 13th by the Rev. A. B. Downing, M.A., B.D.

STOCKPORT. The July Bring and Buy Sale raised £70. A Gift Day to raise £200 is to be the other main financial effort of the year.

THE HUMAN JESUS

"I can enlist as a disciple of Jesus, the man, but I cannot offer any allegiance to Jesus, the God. The doctrine of his divinity withdraws him from human experience and puts him apart for ever. It was easy for a god to spend thirty years on earth, since that's no time at all in eternity, and anyhow he knew he would rise again; but a young workman who conceived a great idea and tried to pass it on and was crucified for doing so, catches my love and enables me to believe that if I had enough will and strength I could do what he did or some of what he did. I haven't any hope of over emulating the activities of an immortal and omnipotent deity."

William Lyon Phelps.

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The Story and Significance of the Unitarian Movement
by W. G. Tarrant, B.A.
Reprinted with additional notes
1/6 by post 1/9
The Lindsey Press, 15, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.

BE STILL, MY SOUL

Be still, my Soul
In quiet heeding
All the Lord thy God commands.
In silence, watch
All care receding;
Through clear vision joy abounds.

Be brave, my Soul,
With courage meeting
All the turmoil of each day.
The love of God,
Despair defeating,
Will be with you all the way.

Be glad, my Soul,
With joy enlighten
Daily round and common task;
With gratitude
Each service brighten;
Heavenly love is all we ask.

Winning entry in the Stand Exhibition, 1958

START NOW

A little girl and her mother were walking down the street and met a very lovely old person. Her kindliness and loveliness kindled the imagination of the child, and she said to her mother: "When I grow old, I want to be just like her!" Her mother replied, "Well, to get to be like her, you'll have to start now."

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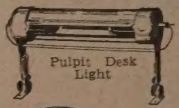

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